GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1476
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
MODERNISATION AND STRENGTHENING OF NAVY
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese and Pakistani Navies are going to hold joint maritime exercises in the Arabian sea;

(b) whether Indian security experts view these exercises as potential threat to country`s area of interest;

(c) whether in this scenario it has become more important to modernise and strengthen Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Inputs available suggest that the Pakistani and Chinese navies are likely to hold joint maritime exercises in the Arabian Sea.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) & (d): Modernisation and strengthening of the Indian Navy is a continuous process.The Ministry of Defence is making efforts to provide the Navy, the equipments, ships and materials commensurate with the threat perceptions and tasks entrusted to the Indian Navy.

Several steps including important acquisitions have been taken to modernize the Indian Navy.Systematic and planned growth of the Navy is being carried out under the 15-year shipbuilding plan.